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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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USDOC FOR BEWT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, EEWT, GE
SUBJECT: US-GDR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL MEETING

1. THE US-GDR AND GDR-US TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCILS MET FOR A PROGRAM OF JOINT ACTIVITIES IN EAST GERMANY AND BERLIN MARCH 17-20. PROGRAM CONSISTED OF A KICKOFF RECEPTION BY FOREIGN TRADE STATE SECRETARY BEIL IN LEIPZIG MARCH 17; A MARCH 18 TOUR OF GDR MACHINE TOOL (WMW) AND MICROELECTRONICS/ PRECISION ENGINEERING/OPTICS (CARL ZEISS JENA) PAVILLIONS AT LEIPZIG SPRING FAIR, MEETINGS OF TRADE, FINANCE, AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEES, AND A DINNER BY BEIL; ON MARCH 19 TOURISM TO DRESDEN
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AND MORITZBURG AND AN EVENING DINNER RECEPTION BY THE U.S. COMMITTEE IN BERLIN. EVENTS ON MARCH 20 CONSISTED OF A PLENARY SESSION OF THE TWO COUNCILS FOLLOWED BY SIGNATURE OF A "COMMUNIQUE" BY BEIL AND U.S. COUNCIL CHAIRMAN OTTMAR, A PRESS CONFERENCE BY BEIL AND OTTMAR, AND A MEETING OF OTTMAR AND SELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS WITH SED ECONOMICS SECRETARY AND POLITBURO

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MEMBER MITTAG. EMBASSY ECON OFFICER ACCEPTED
INVITATIONS TO MARCH 17 RECEPTION, MARCH 18 FAIR TOUR,
AND SAT IN AS OBSERVER AT MARCH 20 PLENARY. AMBASSADOR
ACCEPTED U.S. COUNCIL'S INVITATION TO DINNER MARCH 19
WHICH PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE AMBASSADOR,
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER GRUNERT, BEIL, AND OTTMAR TO
EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE BROADER ASPECTS OF US-GDR
RELATIONS.

2. EAST GERMANS PULLED OUT ALL STOPS TO MAKE THE
AMERICANS' VISIT PLEASANT AND IMPRESSIVE. THE U.S.
GROUP, INCLUDING AMTEL PRESIDENT OTTMAR, UNION BANK
VICE CHAIRMAN WARNER HEINEMAN, PHILIPP BROTHERS
PRESIDENT DAVID TENDLER, AND CONTROL DATA EXECUTIVE
VICE PRESIDENT ROBERT D. SCHMIDT, TO NAME A FEW, WAS
ITSELF IMPRESSIVE. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW THEY WERE HIGHLY
EFFECTIVE IN ADVANCING BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC U.S.
INTERESTS. ON THE BASIS OF OUR OBSERVATIONS AND
EXTENSIVE DE-BRIEF OF OTTMAR, IT APPEARS TO US THAT
THE COUNCIL WAS PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE IN CONVEYING TO
THE GDR THE IMPORTANCE THE UNITED STATES ATTACHES
TO THE RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES,
AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SUCH RESOLUTION AS A FACTOR
IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP WHICH
THE GDR SEEKS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

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3. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE VISIT WAS PREDICTABLY
EXTENSIVE, WITH BRIEF PRESS NOTICES DURING THE EARLY
PART OF THE VISIT CAPPED BY A FRONT-PAGE PHOTOGRAPH AND
ARTICLE IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND MARCH 21 OF THE MITTAG-
OTTMAR MEETING AND TWO ARTICLES DEVOTED TO THE VISIT
AS A WHOLE AND THE BEIL-OTTMAR PRESS CONFERENCE.

4. EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT IS THAT U.S. COUNCIL VISIT
MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO ADVANCEMENT OF
U.S. INTERESTS IN PROMOTING U.S. EXPORTS, IMPRESSING
ON GDR THE NEED TO ADAPT ITS STANCE TO CURRENT
POLITICAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS REALITIES, AND IDENTIFYING
AREAS IN WHICH THE U.S. MAY BE ABLE TO GAIN FROM THE
APPLICATION OF GDR TECHNOLOGY, E.G. ENERGY TECHNOLOGY.
COUNCILS AGREED TENTATIVELY ON A THIRD JOINT SESSION
IN SAN FRANCISCO IN APRIL 1979.
5. OTTMAR PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH ALL DOCUMENTS OF MEETING
WHICH WE ARE POUCHING TO INTERESTED WASHINGTON
ADDRESSEES. DETAILED REPORTING ON CONTENT OF EXCHANGES
DURING COUNCIL VISIT FOLLOWS SEPTEL. BOLEN

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